

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 088499
ORIGIN SS-25

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 088499

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PFOR, VS, VN

SUBJECT: US/VN RELATIONS: PARIS TALKS

REF: PARIS 11183

1. RE PARA 4 REFTTEL ON MODALITIES, PRATT SHOULD PROPOSE TO
DO THANH OUR PRELIMINARY VIEWS AS FOLLOWS:

A. WE WOULD AGREE THAT THE FIRST SESSION COULD GO ONE OR
TWO DAYS DEPENDING ON CIRCUMSTANCES. WE WOULD CONSIDER
THE MATTER OF A SECOND SESSION AT THE END OF THE FIRST ONE.
(FYI. WE ENVISAGE A SECOND MEETING WITHIN 5-7 DAYS,
ALLOWING TIME FOR CONSULTATION IN CAPITALS. IF SECOND
MEETING IS NOT PROMISING, WE COULD ADJOURN FOR REFLECTION
INSTEAD OF SCHEDULING ANOTHER MEETING. END FYI.)

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B. WE AGREE THAT MEETINGS COULD ALTERNATE AT EACH OTHER'S
EMBASSY OR OTHER MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SITE. WE ACCEPT
THEIR INVITATION TO HAVE THE FIRST SESSION AT THEIR
OFFICE AND RESIDENCE ON AVENUE MADRID. WE WOULD HOST ANY
NEXT SESSION EITHER AT OUR CHANCERY OR THE AMBASSADOR'S
OR DCM'S RESIDENCE.

C. WE PREFER FRENCH AS A WORKING LANGUAGE AND WILL HAVE

A FRENCH-ENGLISH INTERPRETER PRESENT. WE WILL ALSO HAVE
A VIETNAMESE-LANGUAGE OFFICER (KEN QUINN) PRESENT.

D. WE SEE NO PROBLEM WITH TAPE-RECORDING THE SESSIONS
IF THE VIETNAMESE WISH, WITH UNDERSTANDING THAT RECORDINGS
WOULD BE FOR PERSONAL USE OF VIETNAMESE AND NOT AS PART OF
OFFICIAL RECORD OR FOR PUBLIC USE IN ANY FORM. WE INTEND
TO HAVE A STENOGRAPHER PRESENT.

E. OUR DELEGATION WOULD CONSIST OF HOLBROOKE, ROSENTHAL,
SIEVERTS, PRATT AND QUINN, PLUS AN INTERPRETER AND
STENOGRAPHER. EA PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER MORT SMITH WILL
ALSO BE ON HAND IN PARIS TO HANDLE PRESS AND WOULD ATTEND
TALKS, AS HE DID DURING THE WOODCOCK TRIP, UNLESS VIET-
NAMESE HAVE SOME OBJECTION.

F. WE WOULD PLAN TO BRIEF THE PRESS AT OUR EMBASSY
FOLLOWING THE MEETING. THE VIETNAMESE WOULD BE INVITED
TO SEND AN OBSERVER. THE TWO SIDES WOULD AGREE BEFORE-
HAND IN THE MEETING ON THE GENERAL LINE TO BE TAKEN WITH
THE PRESS REGARDING SUBSTANCE OF THE MEETING; THERE
WOULD BE NO RELEASE OF TEXTS OF STATEMENTS OR OTHER REMARKS
EXCEPT AS AGREED. HOWEVER, EACH SIDE WOULD BE FREE TO
CHARACTERIZE THE MEETING AND TO RESPOND TO QUESTIONS
WITHIN THE AGREED GENERAL GUIDELINES. WE INTEND TO KEEP
OUR STATEMENTS TO THE PRESS BRIEF, FACTUAL, AND DEVOID
OF RHETORIC.

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G. WE SUGGEST THAT SRV REPS, AS HOSTS FOR FIRST SESSION,
INFORM FRENCH AUTHORITIES OF THE TIME AND PLACE OF
MEETING AND ARRANGE ANY NECESSARY SECURITY, ETC. WE WILL
DO THE SAME WHEN WE HOST ANY SUBSEQUENT SESSION.
VANCE

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NNN

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